

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the instant application. Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which Applicants consider to be their invention. Claims 7 to 9 are amended by insertion of references to the two steps (i) or (ii) of the amended claim 1.

Upon entry of the above-made amendments claims 1-9 will be pending in the current application. The amended claims are fully supported in the specification as originally filed. Therefore, the amendments to the claims do not add new matter. Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered.

The following remarks, in conjunction with the above amendments, are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action.

THE REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koide et al. 1993 (Chem. Pharm. Bull. Vol. 41, No. 6, pages 1030-1034) ("Koide"). In response, Applicants submit that each of the rejections should be withdrawn for the reasons stated below.

As to Koide, it defines MBzl to mean 4-methoxybenzyl (as defined page 1034, column 2, point 1 under References and Notes). 4-methoxybenzyl is unstable at room temperature in

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TFA/DMSO and is cleaved and oxidized to the disulphide bond. In the instant invention MBzl denotes 4-methyl benzyl which is completely stable at room temperature with no cleavage and oxidation to disulfide bond. However in step (ii) at an elevated temperature, 4-methyl benzyl is cleaved and oxidized to the disulphide bond. Thus, Koide does not anticipate the instant invention.

In view of the foregoing, the amended claims are believed to be fully distinguishable from Koide. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 has been overcome and/or obviated and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

THE REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koide. In response, Applicants submit that each of the rejections should be withdrawn for the reasons stated below.

As stated above, claim 1 has been amended to distinctly claim the invention. The invention is about forming multiple disulphide bonds in a "one-pot" reaction negating the need for isolation or purification of intermediates. By choosing the thiol protecting groups in pairs, orthogonal synthesis of thiol comprising compounds can take place without the formation of several possible isomers requiring complicated isolation and purification procedures. There is no teaching or suggestion in Koide of a "one-pot" process as disclosed in the present

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application. Further, as explained above, the 4-methyloxybenzyl group (Koide) and the 4-methyl benzyl group (present invention) have different properties under the reaction conditions described in the patent application. Hence, Koide does not teach or suggest the use of 4-methyl benzyl as in the present invention.

In view of the above, Koide does not in any way teach or suggest the claimed invention in the instant application.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. has been overcome and/or obviated and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.


CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, applicants believe that each ground for rejection or objection made in the instant application has been successfully overcome or obviated, and that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and objections, and allowance of the current application are respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in order to resolve any issues that might arise and to promote the efficient examination of the current application.

Respectfully submitted,



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